

**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to conform with U.S. practice. The use of the singular in the claims, consistent with U.S. practice, includes one or more of the recited elements. Similarly, the term "or" in the claims means "and/or."

**CONCLUSION**

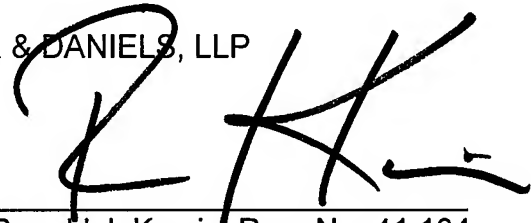
Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite prosecution. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-3380 referencing Attorney Docket No. 978725.10/MPG-P0009.1.

Respectfully submitted,

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